

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Previously Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising a synthetic sulfated polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of sulfated cellulose derivatives and sulfated polyanionic polysaccharides, said synthetic sulfated polysaccharide being present in an amount sufficient to bind matrix metalloproteinases.

2. (Previously Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of sulfated hydroxyethyl cellulose, sulfated carboxymethyl cellulose and sulfated oxidized regenerated cellulose.

3. (Previously Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is sulfated oxidized regenerated cellulose.

4. (Previously Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is, selected from the group consisting of sulfated alginates, sulfated pectins and sulfated hyaluronic acid.

5. (Previously Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is a sulfated alginate.

6. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide comprises an average of at least 0.1 sulfate groups for each ~~saccharine~~ saccharide residue of the polysaccharide.

7. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 6, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide comprises an average of at least 1 sulfate group for each ~~saccharine~~ saccharide residue of the polysaccharide.

8. (Previously Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein the sulfated polysaccharide has an average molecular weight in the range 25,000 - 250,000.

9. (Previously Amended) A wound dressing comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein the wound dressing is in the form of a woven, non-woven, sponge or knitted fabric.

10. (Previously Amended) A wound dressing comprising the sulfated polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein the wound dressing is in the form of a solid complex with collagen.

11. (Previously Amended) A wound dressing or ointment comprising the sulfated polysaccharide as in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the sulfated polysaccharide is soluble in water to an extent of at least 10g/l at 25°C.

12. (Previously Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a sulfated polysaccharide as in any one of claims 1 to 7.

13. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 in the form of a wound dressing material or a soft tissue implant.

14. (Previously Amended) A method of treatment of medical conditions mediated by a matrix metalloproteinase wherein the treatment comprises applying to a wound the composition of claim 1.

15. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the medical condition is a chronic wound.

16. (Canceled)